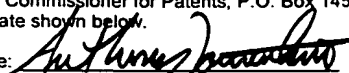


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 377 651 540 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 8, 2004

Signature:

  
(Anthony A. Laurentano)

Docket No.: TOW-066  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Takashi Komura *et al.*

Application No.: NEW APPLICATION

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: FUEL CELL, METHOD OF PRODUCING THE  
FUEL CELL, AND FUEL CELL STACK

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.